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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-INDIA NUCLEAR DEAL, INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS, IRAN: UN SANCTIONS, SUDAN: DARFUR VIOLENCE, TERRORISM; NEW DELHI.

This cable reports on relevant media reaction from India's large non-English press. Embassy New Delhi reports on English-language media via email in the daily "Early Edition". USG customers please write to Geeta Krishali (KrishaliG@state.gov) to subscribe to the "Early Edition."

U.S.-INDIA NUCLEAR DEAL

¶1. "AFTER THE NUCLEAR DEAL," editorial in the October 5 centrist DAINIK BHASKAR Hindi daily: "The US-India civil nuclear agreement has ensured that India's emergence as a global power has now been formally certified. The U.S.-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act reaffirms that the fuel-supply assurances in the 123 Agreement are political commitments, not legal assurances, as the U.S. President himself has attested. And India has been granted no upfront reprocessing right, with the U.S. Congress empowering itself to carefully scrutinize any subsequent reprocessing-related arrangements with New Delhi. Despite these riders, India must still sign the deal because hypothetical situations aside, India will still stand to gain in the long run. As a positive nation, we should go ahead."

INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

12. "ZARDARI SHINES" editorial in the October 7, 2008 multi-edition centrist Gujarati daily DIVYA BHASKAR. "...the recent statements by Pakistani President Zardari branding the so-called 'freedom fighters' in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir as terrorists warrants compliments galore. It is but natural that the separatists in the Kashmir Valley and the political parties have condemned this by saying Zardari is inexperienced and hence not aware of what he's saying.... Whatever may be the case, the need of the hour for Pakistan is to shed its hatred towards India and develop a global vision if it is to move forward. May be because Zardari is inexperienced that he also said that Pakistan doesn't have any problem with the world's largest and oldest democracies coming together. He also stressed the need for increasing trade and commerce with India.... All these statements give a sense of a qualitative shift in Pakistan's perceptions towards India under Zardari.... Pakistani politicians will only be playing in the hands of the ISI if they fail to support Zardari in heralding cordial relations with India. Being ISI's lackey will not only do spell doom for Pakistan but for the whole of South Asian subcontinent, including India...."

13. "PROGRESSIVE THINKING," editorial in the October 6 nationalist RASHTRIYA SAHARA Hindi daily: "Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed progressive and original views about his country's relationship with India in an interview with Wall Street Journal. The president suggested that India posed no threat to

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Pakistan and called the Islamist militants fighting in Indian Kashmir terrorists. This is a landmark statement, putting positive thinking into practice with sincerity and courage that can change the destiny of South Asia. There is bound to be major opposition to his views in Pakistan. He may even have to backtrack. But one thing is clear -- this marks a turn toward positive relations and India should welcome this attitude with open arms."

IRAN: UN SANCTIONS

14. "BROCKMAN MINCES NO WORDS", editorial in the October 6 right-of-center Urdu daily "RASHTRIYA SAHARA", New Delhi: "The western countries, particularly America seem to have become perturbed by certain observations made by the Chairman of United Nations General Assembly, Miguel D Escoto Brockman in the context of Iran. The way those countries were irked by the statements of the Iranian president and were trying to exert their domination over the world is not a concealed fact anymore. America's desire to acquire power has turned Iraq and Afghanistan into a heap of corpses; it is before the world to see. America or Israel, which try to halt the progress of developing countries by employing devious tactics, is showering its ire on Iran today, not because it is a threat to world peace or that the world would turn to ashes, if Iran becomes proficient in the use of nuclear technology, rather it is the innate desire of exerting hegemony over Iran or any other self-esteemed country to halt its pace of progress, while making a pompous show of one's might before the world. In such circumstances, if the western nations particularly America is celebrating over the statements of Brockman over Iran with reference to Israel, what more can it be termed than mere impertinence?

SUDAN: DARFUR VIOLENCE

15. "AMERICAN AMBITIONS IN DARFUR AND STABILIZING PEACE", editorial in the October 6 right-of-center Urdu daily

"MUNSIF", Hyderabad: "American foreign policy is a topic of discussion all over the world. There is hardly any country in the world, where America has not poked its nose. America's interests in the African subcontinent are primarily attributed to the existence of a number of Muslim countries and vast available resources. Sudan is a Muslim country and holds the largest reserves of crude oil after the Middle East. Its reserves are also increasing every year. America and its allies want to get their hands on this treasure trove. Going by its history, America invades into countries which seem to fulfill its business interests. In pursuance of its business interests, America seeks the approval of it's policies from its own child, the United Nations, without putting forth any request. Thereafter, once the approval is got, the U.S. and NATO forces invade the country, they intend to, as has been the case in Iraq, Lebanon, Afghanistan,

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Pakistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Syria amongst others."

TERRORISM

16. "ACTIVITIES OF THE SANGH PARIVAR AND CRIMINAL SILENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT", editorial in the October 6 right-of-center Urdu daily "INQUILAB", Mumbai: "According to a survey conducted by the magazine Outlook recently, 70 percent people were of the view that the incidents and findings related to the involvement of the Bajrang Dal in subversive activities like bomb making, also fall within the ambit of terrorism. These sporadic incidents cannot be simply ignored and categorized as a type different from the incidents of bomb blasts taking place across the country. The incidents related to Nanded and Kanpur have been explicitly dealt with in the magazine. Fake beards, skull caps & sherwanis (long coats) have been recovered from these places during the raids conducted in the aftermath of the blasts. It has been reported that the Sangh Parivar, by way of bomb blasts, is trying to create an atmosphere in the country, where hatred grows against the Muslims. After all, how long would the government shut its eyes from the glaring facts and put the peace and security of the country at stake?"

17. "BJP AND ITS DEMAND FOR POTA", editorial in the October 6 right-of-center Urdu daily "SIASAT", Hyderabad: "The recent spate of terrorist strikes & bomb blasts all over the country has virtually shaken everything around. Every now and then, terrorists are carrying out bomb blasts in one city or the other at will with lan, while innocent people continue to lose their lives and several others suffer grievous injuries in the incidents. A lot of families are facing turbulent times because of these blasts, losing their near and dear ones. Yet, the continuity of blasts does not seem to abate, despite the government taking all possible measures to tackle the menace of terrorism. Under the prevailing circumstances, instead of emphasizing on improving the working of the security agencies and nailing down the real culprits, the opposition party, BJP is harping on bringing a draconian law like POTA again in the country. The ineffectiveness of the police and security agencies cannot be camouflaged by a supposedly weak law. The existing laws to tackle terror in the country are potent enough."

WHITE